

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 L-01
NSAE-00 NSC-06 PM-03 USIA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-10 PRS-01
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R 231017Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8602

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 02308

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TH, XC, LA, CB, VM

SUBJECT: THAI RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES

1. IN COURSE OF A CALL JAN 23 ON OTHER MATTERS, ARUN PHANUPHONG, UNDER SECRETARY OF THAI MFA, REVIEWED FOR DCM STATUS OF THAI RELATIONS WITH INDO-CHINA COUNTRIES.

2. REGARDING CAMBODIA, HE NOTED THAT FONMIN UPPADIT HAD ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 23 THAT HE WOULD BE TRAVELING TO PHNOM PENH IN NEAR FUTURE TO MEET WITH CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IENG SARY. ARUN ADDED THAT, AT REQUEST OF CAMBODIANS, TRIP SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IN FACT IT WILL COVER PERIOD JAN 30 TO FEB 2 AND WILL INCLUDE STOP AT
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SIEM REAP FOR VISIT TO ANGKOR WAT. TRAVEL WILL BE BY CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, PROBABLY FROM THAI AIRWAYS (DOMESTIC AIRLINE). DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLITICAL DEPT OF MFA, DR. OWAT SUTHIWAT-NARUEPHUT, WILL ACCOMPANY FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT COMPLETE COMPOSITION OF GROUP HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, AS CAMBODIANS HAVE NOT YET INDICATED SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS THEY WISH TO HAVE. ARUN DESCRIBED

TRIP AS ESSENTIALLY GOOD WILL MISSION, BUT HE INDICATED THAT PRINCIPAL THAI OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING AN END TO CAMBODIAN ATTACKS ON THAI TERRITORY.

3. ARUN SAID THAT RTG HOPES THAT UPPADIT VISIT WOULD REOPEN DIALOGUE WITH OBJECT OF EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS CAUTIONING AGAINST MOVING TOO PRECIPITIOUSLY TOWARDS NORMALIZATION, AT LEAST UNTIL THAILAND HAD BETTER FEEL FOR CAMBODIAN INTENTIONS. AT SAME TIME ARUN SAID RTG TENTATIVELY PLANS TO INCLUDE IN UPPADIT DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMERCE, FISHERIES AS WELL AS LEGAL EXPERTS IN EVENT CAMBODIANS WISH TO TALK ABOUT TRADE OR LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS.

4. REGARDING LAOS, ARUN CONFIRMED PLANS TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WONG PHOLNIKORN TO LEAVE BANGKOK JAN 24 FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO VIENTIANE. (TRIP HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS, WHICH NOTES THAT WONG WILL TAKE PART IN CEREMONY TO TURN OVER 1000 SACKS OF GLUTINOUS RICE, 500 SACKS OF WHITE RICE, AND 1000 SACKS OF SALT, AS GESTURE OF "SINCERITY OF THAI GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LAOS.") ARUN SAID THAT THERE ARE REGULAR CONTACTS ACROSS MEKONG RIVER BETWEEN THAI AND LAO OFFICIALS, AND HE INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS ALONG BORDER. LAO HAVE REQUESTED
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AGREEMENT FOR A CAREER AMBASSADOR TO BANGKOK, BUT ARUN DID NOT REMEMBER HIS NAME, RECALLING ONLY THAT HE HAD SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN BANGKOK AND HANOI.

5. REGARDING VIET-NAM, ARUN SAID THAT PREPARATIONS ARE GOING AHEAD TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS. HE GAVE NO DATES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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